

1.913
F3 F82

VERTICAL FILE
MIMEOGRAPHED MATERIAL
☆ SEP 27 1940 ☆
O. E. S. LIBRARY

4-H CLUB CITIZENSHIP INAUGURAL CEREMONY

For

RURAL YOUTH OF VOTING AGE

United States Department of Agriculture
EXTENSION SERVICE
Washington, D. C.
1940

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

1911

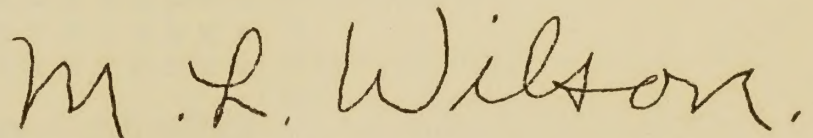
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

FOREWORD

The 4-H Club Citizenship Ceremonial can be made a very effective part of any 4-H Club program for citizenship training in a democracy, as those leaders will testify who observed the holding of this ceremonial at the Lincoln Memorial shrine during the 1940 National 4-H Club Camp. This ceremonial should sharpen and quicken any 4-H Club program in citizenship training now under way.

It is particularly important that this ceremonial convey to the young people participating at least some of the issues involved in the present world crisis and what it is that they as American citizens propose to defend in connection with a national defense program. Every 4-H Club leader can be a mighty influence in helping rural youth to meet the present challenge and to gain that spiritual strength and understanding essential for national unity and supremacy.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "M. L. Wilson." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

M. L. Wilson,

Director of Extension Work.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

WASHINGTON, D. C.

The National Association of the Deaf is a non-profit organization that has been in existence since 1880. It is the largest and most influential organization of deaf people in the United States. The Association's primary purpose is to promote the education, employment, and social welfare of deaf people. It achieves this through a variety of programs and services, including advocacy, public relations, and direct support services. The Association also publishes a quarterly journal, "The Deaf American," which provides information and news for the deaf community. In addition, the Association has a strong history of political activism, having been instrumental in the passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The Association's commitment to the deaf community is reflected in its motto, "We are deaf, we are proud."

Mr. J. Williams

1234 Main Street

City of Washington, D.C.

THE 4-H CLUB CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIAL

OBJECTIVES

1. To help all rural young people to appreciate our democratic way of life as a heritage to be defended with a spirit and faith based upon a thorough understanding of the issues involved.
2. To provide the members of all 4-H Clubs with a genuine citizenship activity.

STEPS OF PROCEDURE

1. As a matter of new business, each 4-H Club should discuss the feasibility of holding a 4-H Club citizenship ceremonial, the number of rural young people of voting age in the community who might be invited to participate, a suitable place and date for such a ceremonial.
2. If it is decided to proceed, suitable arrangements should be made to see the rural young people of voting age and invite them to participate.
3. In order to make the ceremonial colorful and develop added enthusiasm, American flags and 4-H Club banners should be obtained for the occasion.
4. At least two rehearsals should be held. The young people should be taught to give their responses easily and convincingly. It is suggested that these responses be mimeographed on cards that can be easily held and read by the new voters participating.
5. The stage setting should be carefully planned. The ceremony may be held either indoors or outdoors. The following is suggestive:

```
      O O O O O O O O O O
      O
      O x x x x x x x x x O
      O x x x x x x x x x O
      O x x x x x x x x x O
      O
      [X]   (X)  [ ] [ ]
```

Platform Plan

- O . . . Holders of United States flags and 4-H banners.
x . . . New voters.
(X) . . . Large United States flag carried by 4-H member leading procession.
[X] . . . A 4-H Club leader presenting the group.
[] [] . . . Two outstanding citizens participating.

THE PROGRAM

Singing - America the Beautiful (Group to participate
marching to stage¹). By assembly

Presentation of group of new voters participating. . . By 4-H Leader

The Challenge to Citizenship By outstanding citizen

Citizen: In the immortal words of Abraham Lincoln, "Our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."² And now we are engaged in a world conflict of ideals which will determine whether democracy so conceived and so dedicated can endure.

The young men and women of today and those who follow must face the issue of whether "government of the people, by the people, and for the people"³ can be maintained on the earth.

The call is sounded for young Americans, calm and courageous and confident, to reaffirm their faith in the basic principles of self-government, the foundation stone of our United States of America.

Response by new voters: In response to your challenge, "We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."⁴

Citizen: Eternal vigilance is the price of democracy. The blessings it bestows come not without obligation. Active and intelligent participation rather than blind allegiance is demanded of us.

¹/ All rural young people about to become voters will participate. The use of American flags and 4-H Club banners will give color and develop added enthusiasm in connection with this event.

²/ Gettysburg Address.

³/ John Wycliffe's introduction to his translation of the Bible, published in England in 1382.

⁴/ Declaration of Independence.

Response by This shall be our creed of citizenship: To see clearly;
new voters: to cherish and defend that which is good; to improve or
 discard that which is bad; to render at all times loyalty
 and devotion to God in service to our country and all
 mankind.

Citizen: The stand for democracy will not be made entirely by
 statesmen in legislative halls, or captains of industry.
 Its real heroes will for the most part remain unknown.
 They are behind the plow, beside the forge, and at the
 crossroads of commerce - vigilant men and women who in
 their informal counsels and enlightened discussions are
 the true pilots of our national destiny.

Citizenship Pledge

Response by We, individually and collectively, pledge our efforts
new voters: from day to day, to fight for the ideals of this Nation.

We will never allow tyranny and injustice to become
enthroned in this, our country, through indifference to
our duties as citizens.

We will strive for intellectual honesty and exercise it
through our power of franchise. We will obey the laws of
our land and endeavor increasingly to quicken the sense of
public duty among our fellow men.

We will strive for individual perfection and for social
betterment. We will devote our talent to the improvement
of our homes and our communities in their recreational,
social, and spiritual needs.

We will endeavor to transmit this Nation to posterity not
merely as we found it, but freer, happier, and more
beautiful than it was transmitted to us.

The Meaning of Citizenship⁵ By another outstanding citizen

The Roman was always proud of his citizenship; so has
the Englishman always taken a pride in what he regards
as an honor, his citizenship in the British Empire.
What about the citizen of the United States of America?
Does he realize the importance of his position? Is he
proud of this honor?

Citizenship in a democracy means, to begin with, equal
rights -- the right to vote, to appear before the bar of

^{5/} Presented by Dr. Carl F. Taeusch in the 4-H Club Citizenship Ceremonial
held at the Lincoln Memorial during the 1940 National 4-H Club Camp,
Washington, D. C.

justice, to expect lawful treatment at the hands of the public administrator. These political rights are closely linked with the fundamental principle of Christianity, of the worth and dignity of the individual, and with the social principle of religious freedom. But are these rights to be regarded solely as privileges?

The right to vote, and to have that vote count as much as any other citizen's -- no less, no more -- means that the majority of voters may determine public policy. But if this is to happen, every citizen must assume the duty to vote, in order that the majority of votes may express the majority of the opinions of citizens. Government by majority in a democracy also implies that, after an election, the minority accept the decision peacefully, without resort to arms or other methods by which a minority can retain power. It further implies that the elected representatives have been given the authority to use their best judgments in determining legislative policies, as well as to reflect public opinion, and that these representatives have the freedom to express themselves fully in the formulation of those policies.

Our Constitution provides for a judicial department to safeguard the individual against any possible excesses of the legislature or of the administrative officers representing the majority of voters. Furthermore, the "rule of law," developed by the Constitution and under our democratic system, safeguards any minority -- religious, political, or social -- against the possible excesses of a majority, by providing for freedom of religion, of speech, and of the press. And every citizen of this Republic may regard himself or herself as a committee of one to safeguard those principles.

But citizenship in a democracy implies more than any of these privileged activities already mentioned. It implies also a willingness to comply with the law, and even to assist duly constituted authorities to enforce that law. Citizenship in a democracy does not, however, imply the self-appointed power to take the law in hand personally. Democratic citizenship also implies a willingness on the part of the citizen to accept other public responsibilities, even at the cost of personal sacrifices, especially the willingness to accept public appointment or election to office and to accept the responsibility for faithfully performing those public duties.

You who are for the first time assuming these rights and responsibilities of citizenship in these United States of America are to be congratulated. But you are also to be cautioned that the obligations of citizenship in a democracy are probably more grossly violated in the errors of omission than in the breach of law. Violations of the law are provided for in the statutes and may be taken care of by the proper officials; but the broader obligations and duties of citizenship are assumed and performed only through the initiative of the citizen himself or herself. In your own hands, therefore, as incoming citizens of the United States of America and of your respective States and local communities, lies the destiny of this Republic. Insofar as this Nation needs your best judgment and your broadest positive support in determining matters of public welfare, let your response measure up to the pride you should have in the honor and dignity of your newly assumed citizenship.

Response by
new voters:

We who have just taken the pledge of citizenship, accept the opportunities and responsibilities that will be ours as young citizens in these United States of America. We will strive each day to live up to the obligations and responsibilities for which citizenship in a democracy stands.

Today probably more than at any other time in world history we should be aware of our heritage of free speech, a free press, and free religious choice. We aim to stimulate and understand democratic living and practice tolerance, cooperation, and mutual self-help in our homes and in our communities. We have faith that by so doing we will live up to today's challenge of intelligent, loyal, and courageous participation in the affairs of the Nation.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Audience with group

Closing song - America. By assembly

Note: Play God Bless America softly during the response reading.

